

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1349

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, KIMMY)
SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

1. EMBASSY ASSUMES DEPARTMENT IS ENGAGED IN ARTICULATING
U.S. OBJECTIVES IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S
OVERSEAS TRIP AND WOULD LIKE TO MAKE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS
REGARDING HIS STOP IN LIBERIA. WE ALSO OFFER SOME THOUGHTS
ON WHAT WE BELIEVE THE GOL OBJECTIVES WILL BE.

2. FOREMOST, BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S STOP-OVER HERE WE
DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED U.S. INTEREST IN MAINTAINING OUR
SPECIAL RELATION. THIS DEMONSTRATION WILL CONTRIBUTE
GREATLY TO ENSURING OUR CONTINUED ACCESS TO FACILITIES
HERE THAT PROMOTE OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

3. THE STOP-OVER PROVIDES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE
LIBERIA'S CONTINUED MODERATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND
AFRICAN FORA. IN THIS CONTEXT, BUT SUBJECT OBVIOUSLY TO
DEVELOPMENTS, PRESIDENT CARTER MIGHT WISH TO TAKE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT FAVORABLY ON PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S
INITIATIVES IN SPONSORING A RAPPROACHEMENT BETWEEN
GUINEA, SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST, ON HIS SUPPORT OF THE
ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORT IN RHODESIA AND ON THE SIMILARITY
OF OUR VIEWS ON THE HORN OF AFRICA. ADDITIONALLY,
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PRESIDENT CARTER MAY WISH TO COMMENT FAVORABLY ON POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD INTEGRATION UNDER THE ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICA AND THE MANO RIVER UNION.
TOLBERT IS A STANCE SUPPORTER OF ALL SUCH EFFORTS.

4. PRESIDENT CARTER MAY WISH TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH
TOLBERT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. TOLBERT IS A NATURAL ALLY,

ONE OF THE FEW AFRICAN LEADERS WHO DOES NOT HESITATE TO LECTURE AFRICAN STATES ON THE NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE.

5. IN KEEPING WITH HIS DESIRE TO INCREASE USG SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS OVERSEAS, PRESIDENT CARTER COULD ENCOURAGE TOLBERT TO CONTINUE A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR U.S. INVESTMENT AND TRADE.

6. NIGERIA'S OBASANJO RECENTLY COMPLETED A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO MONROVIA (MONROVIA 1231) AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES REMAIN CLOSE. IN OUR OWN EFFORTS FOR IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA WE ARE NATURAL BENEFICIARIES OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THAT COUNTRY AND LIBERIA. PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO MAY WELL CARRY GREETINGS FROM OBASANJO TO TOLBERT, MAY WISH TO COMMENT FAVORABLY ON THE GOOD STATE OF LIBERIA/NIGERIA RELATIONS.

7. LASTLY, WE COULD SECURE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS AND ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE LIBERIAN VISIT IF PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD EXTEND A PERSONAL INVITATION TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME DURING HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OAU IN 1979.

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8. FOR ITS PART, THE GOL HAS ALREADY GAINED ITS FOREMOST OBJECTIVE BY HAVING PRESIDENT CARTER'S SCHEDULE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE LIBERIA--A DEMONSTRATION TO THE LIBERIAN PEOPLE, THE REST OF AFRICA AND THE THIRD WORLD THAT THE U.S. CONTINUED TO VALUE ITS TIES WITH LIBERIA.

9. SECONDLY, TOLBERT MAY BE EXPECTED TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF FMS LOANS. HE WILL WANT A HIGHER LEVEL OF FMS THAN WE ARE PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO PROVIDE (\$400,000 IN FY 1979) AND HE MAY BRING UP THE QUESTION OF USING SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR HIGHER FMS. WHAT HE MAY SEEK ABOVE ALL IS PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO TAKE A SECOND LOOK AT U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA FOR FY 79 AND BEYOND.

10. TOLBERT WILL WANT TO DISCUSS A WHOLE RANGE OF AFRICAN ISSUES AND TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION FROM US THAT LIBERIA, DESPITE ITS SMALL SIZE, IS A SIGNIFICANT MODERATING INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.
CARTER

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